

<Date>

<Phys. Name>

<Address>

Dear <Phys. Name>

The _____ Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention, in cooperation with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is conducting a study of selected pregnancies in _____. In connection with our birth defects surveillance program, we often find that we need more information about a patient than may be found in the hospital record. Therefore, we would like to inform you of our intent to request an interview with one or more of your patients. Participation in this study will be completely voluntary.

We will be collecting information on pregnancy history, family history of congenital defects, nutrition, lifestyle factors, street drug use, sexually transmitted diseases, occupation and other exposures that may have occurred during pregnancy. This information will be collected from mothers of babies with birth defects as well as mothers of babies without birth defects. Trained professionals will conduct all of the interviews over the telephone, and no mother will be contacted until at least 6 weeks after her delivery. No information collected in the interview will be released in any form that could identify you or your patient.

The authority for collecting this information and the assurance that it will be held in strict confidence is given in accordance with Section 301(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 (d)). Unless the participant gives permission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to release personal information, no one, including the participant's family, will be permitted access to this personal information. Qualified medical researchers will have strictly controlled and limited access to this data.

If there is any reason that we should not contact the mother listed below, please contact _____ or the research coordinator, _____, at _____ by <Response Date>. If we do not receive a response from you by this date, we will proceed with the contact.

Mother:

Infant(s):

Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter. We sincerely hope that the additional information that we collect will help us to learn more about the complex etiology of congenital birth defects.

Sincerely yours,